



5 SPECTACULAR SERIES

ECLIPSE

MONTHLY

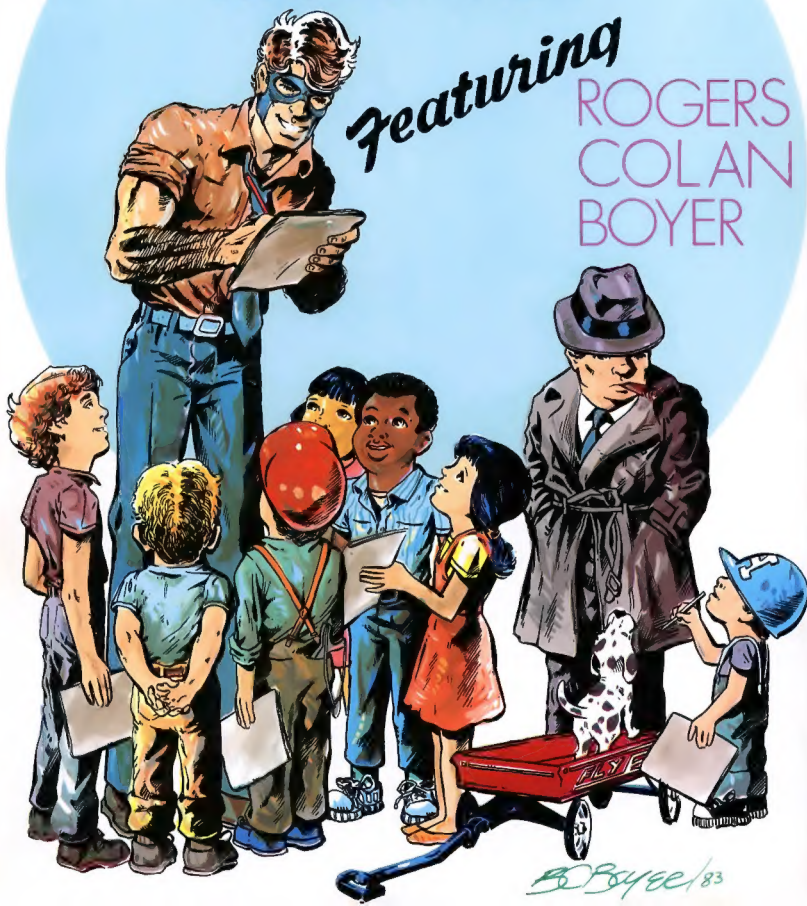
TM

No. 3

\$2.00
2.50 in Canada

Featuring

ROGERS
COLAN
BOYER



Bob Boyce/83

LETTERS TO SURF CITY

c/o ECLIPSE COMICS, P. O. Box 199, Guerneville, California 95446

Welcome to our third issue and first lettercolumn. We've received more than the usual amount of mail on our premiere issue. So without any further wasting of space, we'll let you take it away.
— Dean Mullaney

Dear Eclipsers:

BRAVO! ECLIPSE MONTHLY no. 1 was super! Not because of all the stories, but because of ALL the stories! Let me explain: not every story was great, but the variety of stories was great! Long have I waited for a book such as this. I'm also glad to see that not every story was about a superhero! Don't get me wrong, I love superheroes, but I also love fantasy ("Cap'n Quick and A Fozzie") . . . "pulp" action ("The Masked Man"), or should I say "modern pulp" action . . . westerns ("Rio"). As for "Dope," forget it. And Mr. Ditko should stick with "Spider-Man."

Nothing left to say except see you in 30!

Deric Townsend
Charlotte, NC

Thanks for your letter, Deric. Variety is the name of the game as far as cat and I are concerned. We don't expect everyone to like every story; we are banking, however, on most of you liking most of the stories. If we can accomplish that much, we'll be happy.

Dear cat and Dean and everybody:

Presenting . . . my first ever letter to Eclipse Comics and it's for your new magazine, **ECLIPSE MONTHLY**!

It is fun again to read comics. Only about one year ago I decided to quit reading them because they had become generic in nature. Sure, there were a few that had some excellent qualities, but most of them had forgotten their roots and the publishers decided to make them more marketable. This is why I became disillusioned.

Suddenly, a new wave of publishers came and like an armada of real fans, they had remembered that comic books had their roots in the pulps. Exciting, novel and unique qualities that often left the reader wanting more. Eclipse was riding that wave proudly, and with the advent of **ECLIPSE MONTHLY**, we have come full circle.

ECLIPSE MONTHLY brings me back to the days of the mid-1930s when pulps were in their transition and becoming comics. It reminds me of the early days of such comics as **ACTION**, **DETECTIVE** and the beloved **ADVENTURE**.

Each strip is unique and fun. Each one has something for everybody. "Cap'n Quick and A Fozzie" reminds me of the Simon and Kirby kid comics. "The Masked Man" reminds me of the many attempts to have non-superpowered superheroes, i.e. Sandman or Mister Terrific. "Rio" is an excellent homage to the many faded westerns, and "Dope" brings memories of the back-ups in **DETECTIVE**, before **The Batman**. But the real reason I purchased your magazine is because I can never get enough of Steve Ditko's art and story. I find it always fun and challenging to read something by Ditko. You should put out a couple of magazines called "Steve Ditko Comics and Stories."

Well, enough is enough. I want more!

John A. Modica
429 Monterey Blvd.
San Francisco, CA 94127

*What can I say, John, but thanks! The early issues of such comics as **ADVENTURE** and **DETECTIVE** were exactly what I had in mind when planning **ECLIPSE MONTHLY**. Be assured that the variety will continue, although, sorry to say, Steve Ditko's "Static" ends its run with this issue. Steve decided not to continue the series in these pages.*

If you're the great Ditko fan that I am, then you'll want to check out a new fanzine that crossed my desk, called "Ditkomania." It's a short (10 page) xeroxed zine that dedicates itself to Steve's work. You can get a copy of the latest issue for \$.80 (\$.90 mailed flat) from Bill Hall, Box 110, Weedsport, NY 13166. I recommend it.

Dear Dean and cat,

What can be said about Marshall Rogers' art? Well, how about fabulous, exciting, killer, fantastic, awesome, stupendous, beautiful, magnificent — just for starters. Thanks for "Cap'n Quick and A Fozzie." Thanks for **ECLIPSE MONTHLY**.

Jim Harrington
Los Gatos, CA

Your reactions have thrilled him such that he allowed series, Jim. The general consensus of mail indicates that this is your favorite strip by Marshall since "The Batman."

And he's so happy by your reactions that he's allowed us to talk him into doing "Cap'n Quick and A Fozzie" as a full-length, 28-page, bi-monthly book of its own! (Some "talking him into it" — I said, "Wanna get your own book?" and he said, "You'll have to twist my arm NOT to do it!" "Cap'n Quick and A Fozzie" will appear here next month, and then Marshall will gather up some inventory stories while we get his first issue ready to go to press. It'll be sometime this Spring, and you can be assured that we'll let you know when it happens!

Dear Dean and cat,

The first issue of **ECLIPSE MONTHLY** was one of the best comics I've read this month and certainly the most varied. You've put together a very attractive package, one with something for everyone — and a LOT something for those of us who like a change from snarling characters in form-fitting underpants.

"Cap'n Quick and A Fozzie" was the most delightful part of the issue; cute can be fun, but intelligent cuteness is a lot rarer, and I much appreciate it. "The Masked Man" may lack bloodshed, crazed ninja death-squads, and "grim realism," but I guess that's why I loved it so much. Warm, charming, innocent, and with a heart as big as all outdoors, "The Masked Man" feature deserves a long run in your magazine.

continued on inside back cover

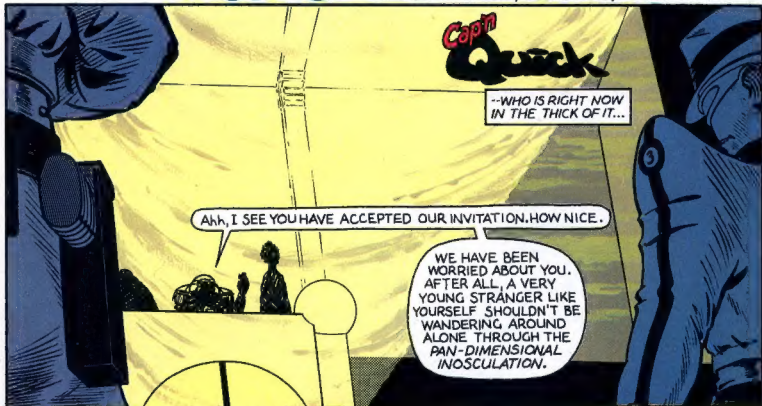


ECLIPSE PRESENTS:

TOOZIE



--AND SOME FRIENDS & ASSOCIATES, ON THEIR WAY TO SAVE--

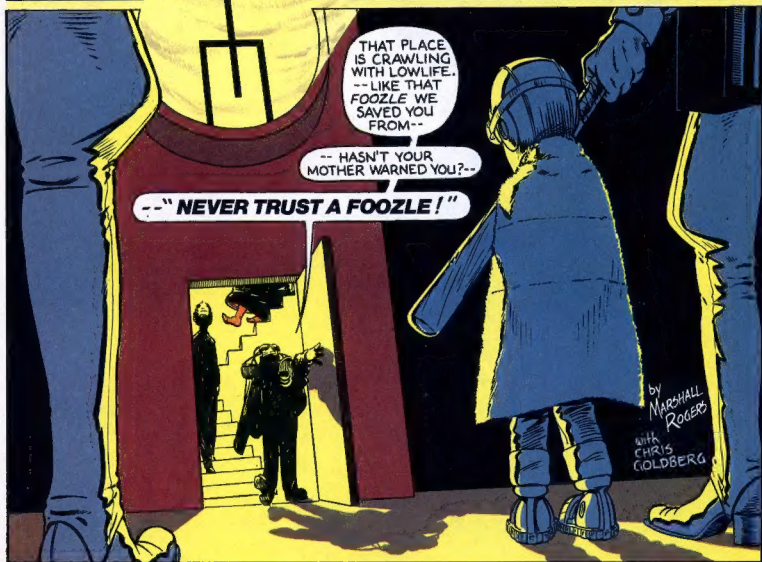


Cap'n Quack

--WHO IS RIGHT NOW
IN THE THICK OF IT...

AHH, I SEE YOU HAVE ACCEPTED OUR INVITATION. HOW NICE.

WE HAVE BEEN
WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
AFTER ALL, A VERY
YOUNG STRANGER LIKE
YOURSELF SHOULDN'T BE
WANDERING AROUND
ALONE THROUGH THE
PAN-DIMENSIONAL
INOSULATION.



THAT PLACE
IS CRAWLING
WITH LOWLIFE.
-- LIKE THAT
FOOZLE WE
SAVED YOU
FROM --

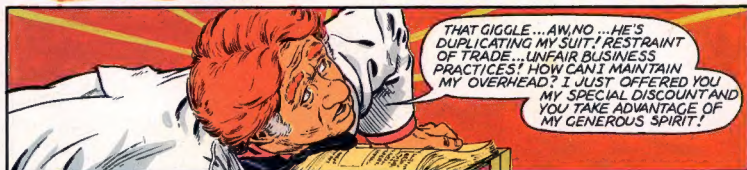
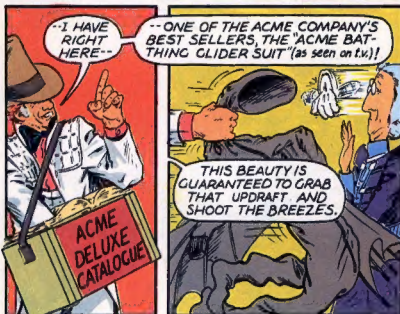
-- HASN'T YOUR
MOTHER WARNED YOU? --

-- "NEVER TRUST A FOOZLE!"

by
MARSHALL
ROGERS
with
CHRIS
GOLDBERG

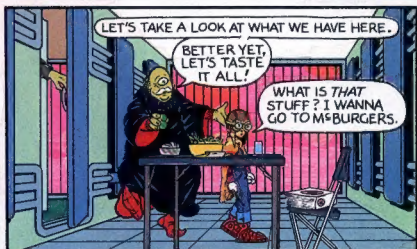




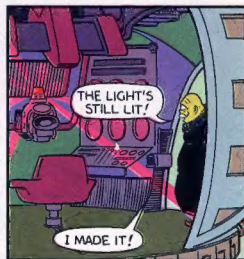
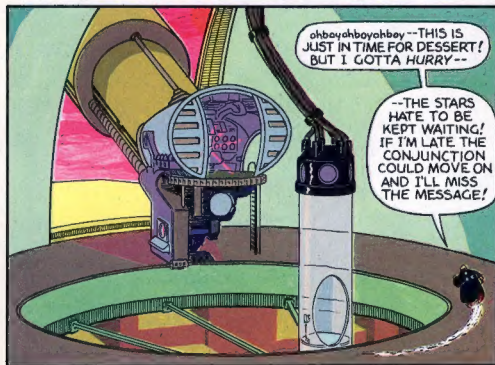
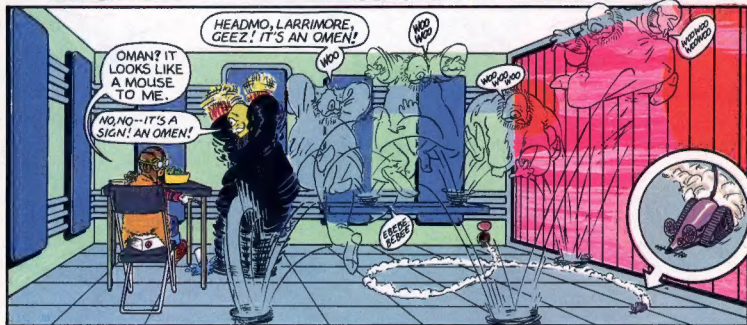
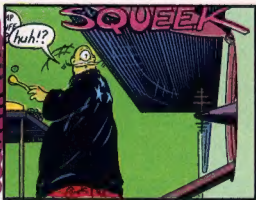




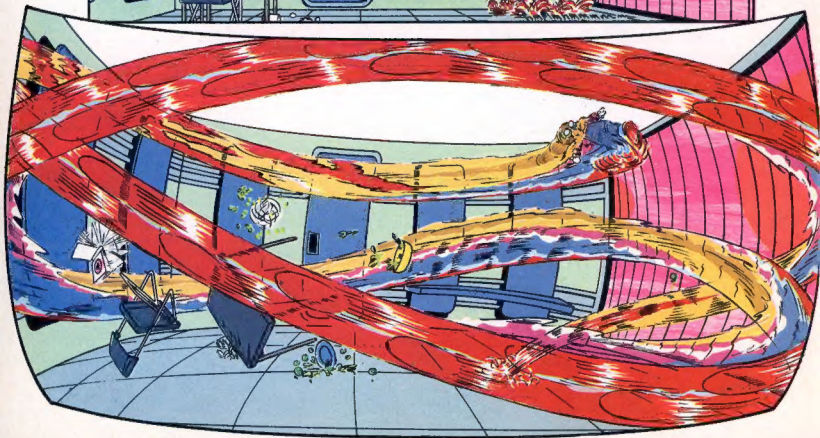
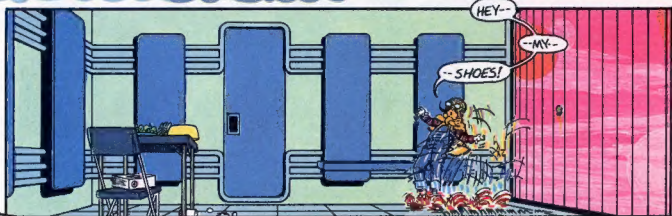
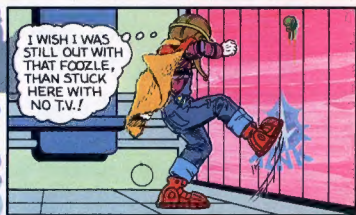
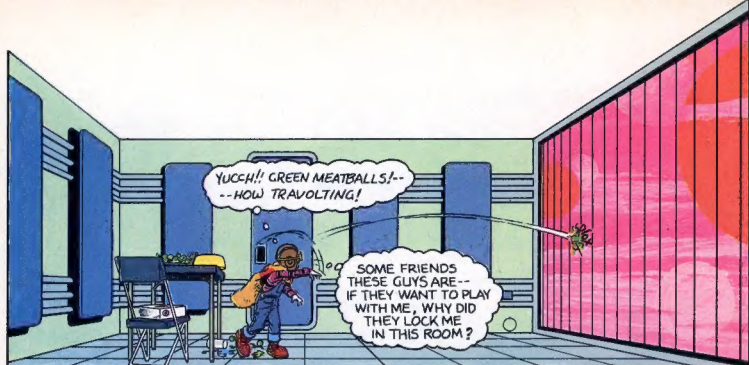
WHILE KLONSBON AND COMPANY PREPARE TO DEPART, THE OBJECT OF THEIR CONCERN IS ABOUT TO FACE...

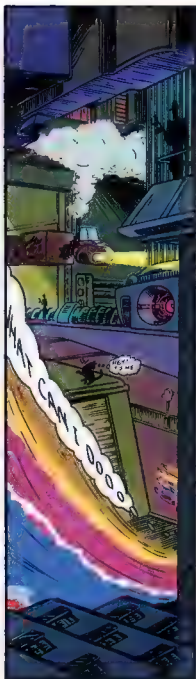
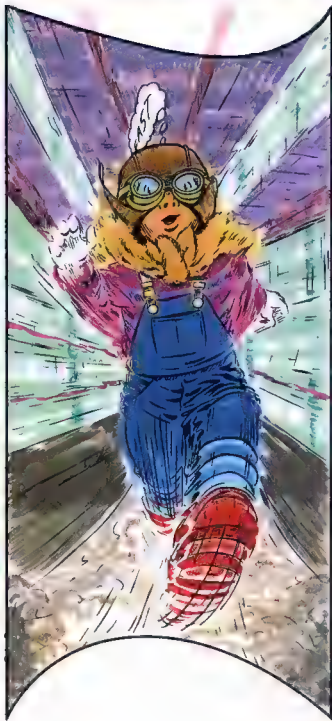
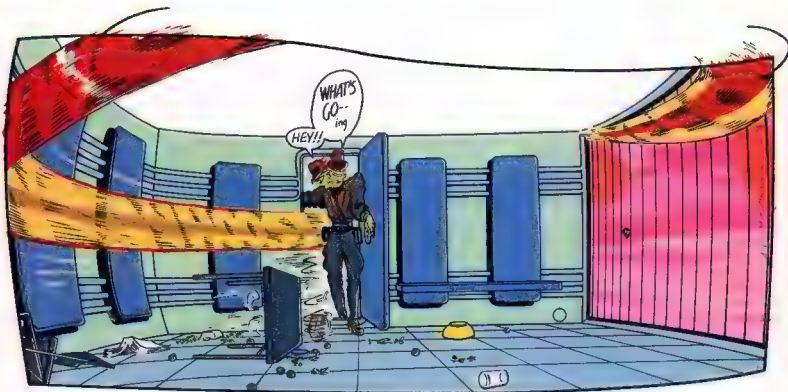


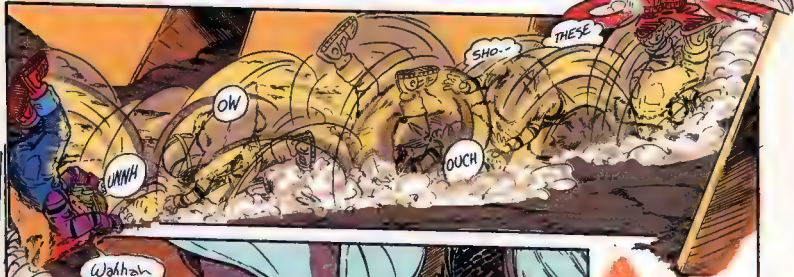
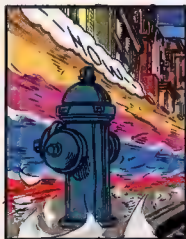
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK











NEXT
ISSUE



Notes from SURF CITY

by Jan & Dean Mullaney

Open up that Golden Gate!

Moving to California has its definite advantages. Sure the weather's nice . . . but it's still summer and the temperature back in New York this time of year is even more inviting. Having such a choice pick of apples and grapes is enjoyable, but New York State grapes and apples are equally juicy and delicious. Then what can California offer that New York doesn't? Would you believe a free bottle of wine with every photocopy machine purchase?!

We just had our new Minolta photocopier delivered along with its attendant reams of paper, bottles of toner and developer, and instruction manuals. But it seems that our salesman, a former New Yorker himself named Rick Krulish, likes to do things in style. So tonight, we drink a tasty bottle of California white wine with our fettuccini! Thanks, Rick — we promise not to pour the wine where the toner is supposed to go!

"S" is for the many Sensations he has Scripted!

Have you ever noticed how many characters whose names begin with the letter "s" have been created by that super-scribe himself, Jerry Siegel? His exciting series, *The Starling*, is now appearing in the pages of *Destructor Duck*, and is but the latest in Jerry's long line of winning creations. Beginning with *Superman* (which he co-created with Joe Shuster), Jerry has also given us *Spectre*, *Spy*, *Slam Bradley*, *Star Spangled Kid*, and *Superboy*! In fact, he even at one time used the pseudonym "Jerry Ess"!



Jerry Siegel's *The Starling* drawn by Val Mayerik.

We had the pleasure of meeting Jerry and his wife Joanne for the first time recently and they both want

to express their thanks to the many, many readers who have sent such favorable letters about *The Starling*. We are all — Jerry, Joanne, Val Mayerik and us Surf City Kids — thrilled and overwhelmed by your response to this series. Although *The Starling* has had but two brief appearances so far, it looks like this "S" is a hit tool

And when you pick up *Destructor Duck* no. 4 to read the next chapter of *The Starling*, you may also note something else in the lead feature. Y'know, for years people have been saying that Steve Gerber is crazy. I mean, here's a guy who once made Doctor Strange dress up as Bozoll Well, once you read the story in DD no. 4, you'll see that Steve really *isn't* crazy. He's . . . INSANE! The team of Gerber, Kirby and Alcalá have made *Destructor Duck* the leading serious "humor" book around.

Open up that Golden Gate — Take Two

Although by the time you read this October 30th will have passed, let it hereby be known that it shall be forever called "ECLIPSE DAY" (at least on Telegraph Avenue in Berkeley!). Y'see, that's the day we're being honored by Comics and Comix, the biggest comics shop in the entire San Francisco Bay area. And thanks to Tom, Diana and the entire crew at Comics and Comix for the fine, fine invite. While as of this writing the day has not yet come, we know we're going to have a blast, and have plenty of free gifts in store for everyone who comes by to say hello.

Gee, first a free bottle of wine, and now they name a day after us! What could be next? The governorship? Hmm, and then maybe even the Presidency! And why stop there? How about Masters of the Galaxy!? Supreme Beings of the Omniverse! And we can get Jack Kirby to design all of our costumes! And . . . uh, well, come to think of it, we're pretty happy with our lot as it is. After all, not every comics company has a day named after itself!

We're Looking for People Who Like to Letterhack!

There's been a lot of talk lately, in our lettercolumns, those of other companies, and in the fanzines themselves, about a "select few" letterhacks who seem to dominate the lettercols. Most of the talk has been in the form of complaints that the lettercolumns in question are not "open" to newcomers, and that certain letterhacks are "favored" by those who choose which letters to print.

Well, it ain't so, says I (Dean)! I remember years ago when a similar "complaint" cropped up about such regular letterhacks as Ralph Macchio, Mark Gruenwald, Bob Rodi, Peter Sanderson, and me! I and my esteemed friends weren't trying to hog the lettercols; we just won the luck of the draw more often than not.

And the same is true today. Regardless of whether or not your letter sees print, we do read each and every one of them. And don't forget, the more letters we receive from you, the more input you have in what goes into our comics, and the better shot you have at seeing your letter printed.

Until next month, surf's up!

Making the past safe from the future

AZTEC X-13

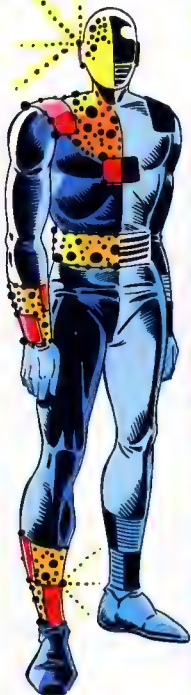


by Doug Moench, Michael Hernandez & Nestor Redondo
Coming soon from Eclipse.

VS. THE GENERAL



© 83 Ditko



AT THE QUEST RESEARCH LAB, WHERE MAC WORKS AS AN ASSISTANT TO DOCTOR ED SERCH...

RESISTANCE IS FUTILE, DOCTOR SERCH! YOU ARE COMING WITH US! TOO BAD YOUR DAUGHTER IS NOT HERE! GETTING BOTH OF YOU WOULD PLEASE THE GENERAL!

I HOPE MAC AND FERA DON'T WALK IN ON THIS! WHY DOES THE GENERAL WANT ME?



AN EXPERIMENTAL SUIT AND MAC REY JOIN TO BECOME STATIC--A MAN PURSUING AN ANCIENT, HONORED, BUT NOW CORRUPTED OR IGNORED GOAL...

JUSTICE!

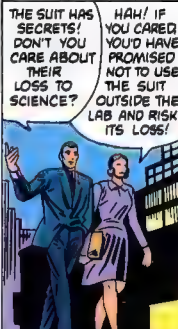
LETTERING: KEN BRUZENAK • COLORING: DENIS McFARLING • EDITING: DEAN MULLANEY



FERA, THE SUIT IS NOT YOURS TO TAKE AND HIDE!

DO NOT TALK TO ME OF RIGHTS, MAC! YOU USED THE SUIT TO VIOLATE RIGHTS AND TO BREAK LAWS!

NOT AGAINST ANY-ONE INNOCENT! SAYS YOU.



THE SUIT HAS SECRETS! DON'T YOU CARE ABOUT THEIR LOSS TO SCIENCE?

HAH! IF YOU CARED YOU'D HAVE PROMISED NOT TO USE THE SUIT OUTSIDE THE LAB AND RISK ITS LOSS!



LIFE IS RISK-TAKING! WHY DID YOU RISK- I PROMISE?

WHY DID YOU REFUSE TO PROMISE? IT WAS TO PROTECT, NOT HARM YOU!



IT'S SOMETHING YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE DEMANDED!

AND RISKING THE SUIT, YOUR LIFE, OUTSIDE THE LAB IS SOMETHING YOU SHOULD NOT BE DOING! THE SUIT CORRUPTED YOU!



YOU, TOO, FERA! YOU NOW CLAIM OWNERSHIP OVER THE SUIT AND DEMAND CONTROL OVER MY LIFE AND ACTIONS! HAS THE SUIT MADE YOU ALL-KNOWING AND DEMANDING?

YOU'RE BLINDED BY THE THRILL OF EGO POWER OF WEARING THE SUIT! YOU CAN'T SEE I'M RIGHT!



FERA, DID YOU DESTROY THE SUIT?

NO! MAYBE I SHOULD! IT MIGHT BE BEST FOR EVERYONE IF I DID!



BUT I SWEAR, MAC, YOU'LL NEVER WEAR IT AGAIN! MAYBE NO ONE EVER WILL!

SHE CAN'T OR WON'T SEE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CHOICE AND FORCE! THERE'S NOTHING ELSE I CAN SAY OR DO!



I CAN'T MAKE PERA RETURN THE SUIT! IT'S DOC'S PROPERTY! THE MEANS OF RETURN IS UP TO HIM! BUT WHAT CAN HE DO?

DAD'S NOT HERE? TSK! TSK! HE WENT OUT AND LEFT THAT ON! REALLY!



AH, A NOTE!

THINGS SCATTERED? NOT LIKE DOC! WE DO HAVE SECRET STUFF! I HOPE THIS DOESN'T MEAN WHAT I FEAR! BUT THE SIGNS ARE OMINOUS!



IT SAYS
NOW I DO FEAR
THE WORST!
CALL! ODD?
PHONE!



DAD!
NO, BUT IT'S FOR
YOU! A MAN!

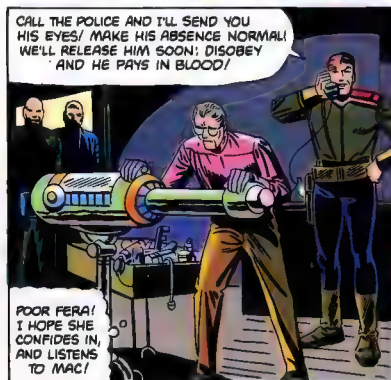


WHO COULD BE...HELLO...
WHA...MY DAD! NO!



QUIET! JUST LISTEN AND
OBEY ME OR YOUR FATHER
DIES!

DIES?!



CALL THE POLICE AND I'LL SEND YOU
HIS EYES! MAKE HIS ABSENCE NORMAL!
WE'LL RELEASE HIM SOON; DISOBEY
AND HE PAYS IN BLOOD!

POOR FERA!
I HOPE SHE
CONFIDES IN,
AND LISTENS
TO MAC!



DOCTOR SERCH, DID YOU
FINISH STUDYING
THE DEVICE?



NOT YET, GENERAL!
GENERAL WHO?

JUST GENERAL!
KNOW WHAT IT IS?

A WEAPON! BUT WHY AM
I HERE, GENERAL?



NOW WHY DO YOU THINK
I NEED A DOCTOR?

YOU HAVE A SICK
WEAPON!



SO WE
KNOW
NOTHING!
WE CAN
ONLY WAIT!

THEY WILL
RELEASE DAD,
WON'T THEY,
MAC?

YES!

NO! DAD'S A DEAD MAN!
WHAT COULD EVEN THE
POLICE DO NOW?



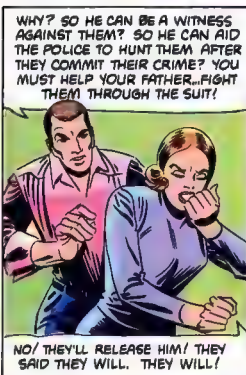
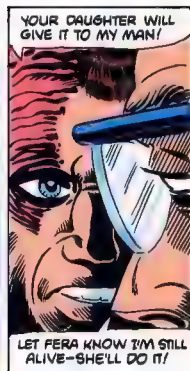
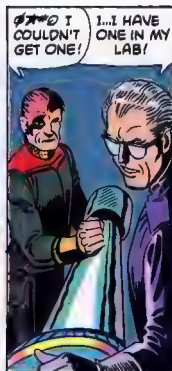
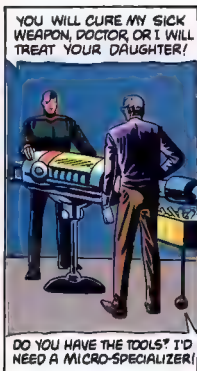
WHY DO THEY
WANT DAD?
IS IT A...A
KIDNAPPING?

MAYBE,
FERA.
I DON'T
KNOW!

THEY'LL RELEASE HIM!
THEY SAID THEY WOULD!



NO RANSOM DEMAND! IT'S
SOMETHING WORSE! THEY'RE
NOT AFTER MONEY, BUT AFTER
THE CREATOR OF WEALTH--
A MIND! TO SERVE WHO?
WHAT? NO, NOT PRODUCTION--
THEN DESTRUCTION!
TO SERVE A POWER
LUSTER!



I DON'T REALLY NEED THE SPECIALIZER, BUT I'M HOPING...NO! I BETTER NOT THINK ABOUT IT!



TOO GUARDED! CAN'T SABOTAGE IT! JUST STALL FOR TIME AND HOPE.



THIS UNIT NEEDS REWIRING! VERY GOOD!

THERE ARE OTHER DEFECTIVE PLANTS! YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO FAIL MY TESTS!



HE'S A MASTER BEING WHO'S OUTWITTING THE CLEVER ONES! MY BEST STRATEGY IS TO PLAY IT STRAIGHT AND DEPEND ON MAC!



HE TOOK IT, BUT HE WOULDN'T TELL ME ANYTHING! OH, DAD! DID I DO RIGHT?



THE CHEMICAL TRACER ON THE BAG SHOULDN'T DIE OUT BEFORE I'M LED TO DOC!



HE SHOULDN'T EXPECT TO BE FOLLOWED, SO I DON'T HAVE TO FOLLOW TOO CLOSELY!



BUT IF I LOSE HIM, IF THAT CHEMICAL TRA...WHOA, NOW! STOP THAT PHOBIC THINKING!



I GOT IT, GENERAL! YES, THAT'S IT! GOOD!



SO SOMEWHERE INSIDE THERE IS DOC SERCH!

LOOKS UNGUARDED! BELIEVING THAT'S THE REALITY COULD BE FATAL!



ALL THESE UNITS ARE FLAWED, GENERAL!

ALL? NO! YOU LIE!



YOUR SPECIALIZER MUST BE NO GOOD!

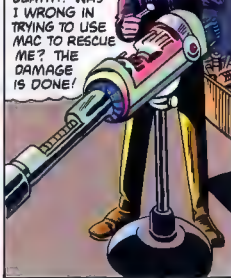
IT'S TRUE! ~~OKAY~~ THE SUPPLIER DEALT ME DEFECTS! WELL, I HAVE SPARES! TEST THEM ALL!



WHY DID I TRY TO TIP OFF MAC?
WITHOUT THE SPECIALIZER, NO MATTER
WHAT I DID TO THE GUN-IT WOULD
NEVER WORK! NOW I MAY HAVE PUT
MAC IN DANGER, MADE THE GENERAL'S
EVIL POSSIBLE, EVEN GUARANTEED
HIS SUCCESS!



BUT COULD I HAVE
ACCEPTED THE
CONSEQUENCES
OF DEFYING THE
GENERAL-FERAS'
DEATH?! WAS
I WRONG IN
TRYING TO USE
MAC TO RESCUE
ME? THE
DAMAGE
IS DONE!

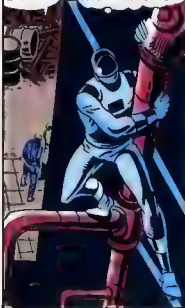


EVERYTHING DONE HAS A COST!
WHAT WILL MY ERROR OF COWARDICE
ADD UP TO? HOW MUCH DAMAGE
AND HOW MANY INNOCENTS WILL
HAVE TO PAY FOR MY ACTION?!



DID
YOU
HEAR
STATIC?

ONE WRONG
MOVE AND IT'S
ALL OVER FOR
ME AND DOC!



FINDING DOC
MAY BE THE
EASIEST
PART!



I DON'T KNOW WHO
OR WHAT I'M UP
AGAINST!



I CAN PREPARE FOR THE
UNKNOWN ONLY BY BEING
CAREFUL IN EACH MOVE
I MAKE!



YOU CAN
REST FOR
AWHILE!

IF THE GENERAL
CHECKS, HE'LL
SEE THE JOB
IS DONE.



WHERE'S
MAC?

LET'S GO,
DOC!

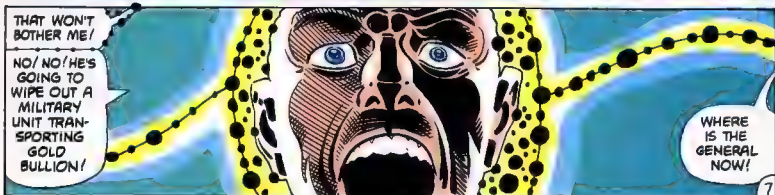
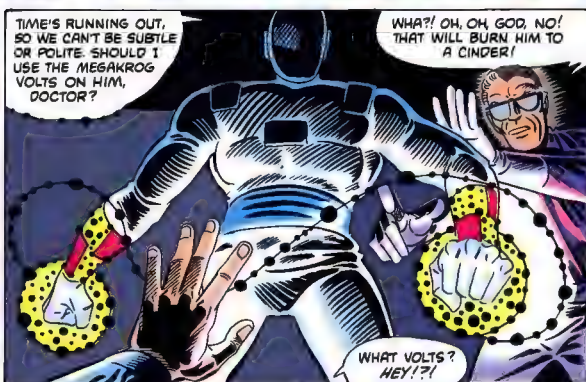


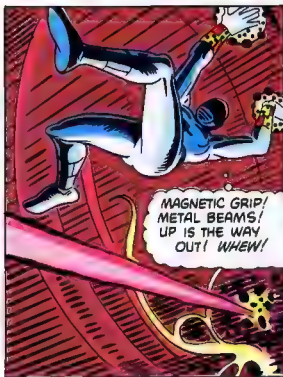
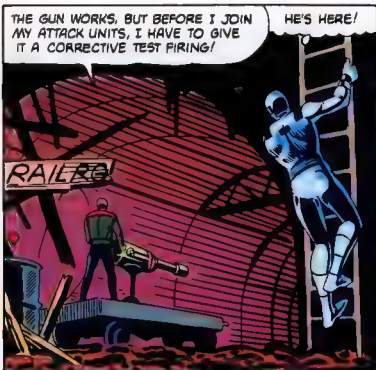
NO! FIRST I HAVE TO
DESTROY A
HORRIBLE GUN OR
DIE TRYING!

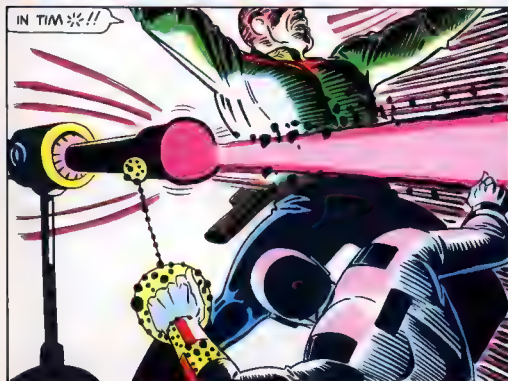
OH, NO! THE GUN, THE
GENERAL...IT'S ALL
GONE! HE'LL
SUCCEED!
IT'S ALL MY
FAULT!



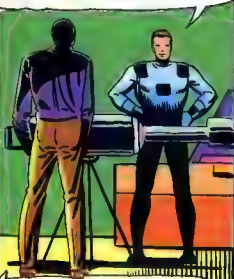
THAT SMELL?
SUCCESSFUL
GUN TEST?







THE AUTHORITIES WILL HAVE TO SETTLE WITH MISSING PIECES, DOC! IT'S BEST THAT WAY!



WHAT IS BEST IS NOT ALWAYS AN EASY JUDGMENT, MAC!

MAC, I DON'T THINK I COULD HAVE LIVED WITH MYSELF IF THE GENERAL GOT THE GOLD WITH MY HELP!



YOU BELIEVE YOU SOLD OUT, DOC?

I LET MYSELF BE USED! IT MAKES ME WONDER IF OUR SUIT IS TOO DANGEROUS! IS FERA RIGHT HAVE WE BECOME SELF-BLINDING, SELF-DECEIVING, BEING CORRUPTED...UNWILLINGLY?

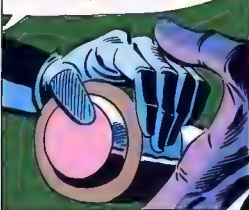


DOC, IS THIS THE BEST TIME TO DISCUSS THE SUIT ISSUE?

DOCTOR SERCH, YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH A NIGHTMARE NO MAN DESERVES TO FACE! YOUR JUDGMENTS NOW HAVE TO BE SUSPECT! DON'T DECIDE THE SUIT ISSUE UNTIL YOUR MIND CAN BE OBJECTIVE! THE ISSUE IS TOO IMPORTANT! IT DESERVES YOUR MIND AT ITS BEST!



YOU KNOW THERE'S A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MINDS LIKE YOURS AND MINE, AND THE GENERAL'S, BETWEEN A MIND GEARED TO POWER OVER NATURE AND POWER OVER PEOPLE!



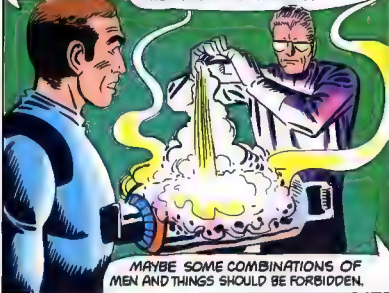
YET A MIND CHANGES, MAC! WAS THE GENERAL ALWAYS THAT WAY? POWER CHANGES MINDS! IS ANYONE IMMUNE?

YOU'RE AN ANSWER, DOC! YOU'RE APPALLED BY THE GENERAL'S GOALS AND MEANS! SLEEP ON IT, DOC! I'LL ACCEPT YOUR DECISION! THE SUIT IS YOUR IDEA! IN A SENSE, THE SUIT IS YOUR MIND!



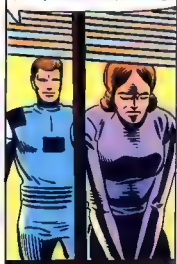
AND YOURS, MAC! YOU WERE ESSENTIAL TO ITS CREATION! WE BOTH GAVE IT EXISTENCE-BIRTH! BUT ITS POTENTIAL FOR EVIL USE REALLY FRIGHTENS ME NOW!

A POTENTIAL FOR GOOD OR EVIL IS A FACT OF LIFE! EVERY ATROCITY IS COMMITTED BY SOMEONE'S CREATION, A NEW-BORN GONE BAD! BUT EVERYONE BORN DOESN'T COMMIT ATROCITIES! AND DO GUN TRIGGERS PULL FINGERS?



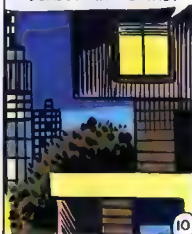
MAYBE SOME COMBINATIONS OF MEN AND THINGS SHOULD BE FORBIDDEN.

YOUR FATHER'S BACK SAFE, FERA! WHY SO SAD?



IN MY DISTRESS, YOU MADE SURE I DIDN'T CONSIDER CALLING THE POLICE.

YOU WANTED ONLY THE SUIT! IT'S A CONSUMING EVIL! IT WILL DESTROY YOU, MAYBE US ALL! I TRIED TO SAVE YOU AND YOU TRICKED ME AND MADE ME FAIL! I ACTIVATED AND RETURNED A DEADLY TIME BOMB!



RAGAMUFFINS™

KITTYCATS! BOOGEYMEN

by **DON MCGREGOR** / **GENE COLAN** / **KLAUS JANSON** / **ADAM KUBERT**
CREATOR / WRITER ARTIST INKER / COLORIST LETTERS

The summer of 1951 was like any earlier or future summer, if you were a Ragamuffin. It was a time of release from the cold prison of winter and school. Ragamuffins did not mind heat, and certainly did not know the meaning of the word muggy, and in fact, enjoyed sweat streaking the dirt on their faces.

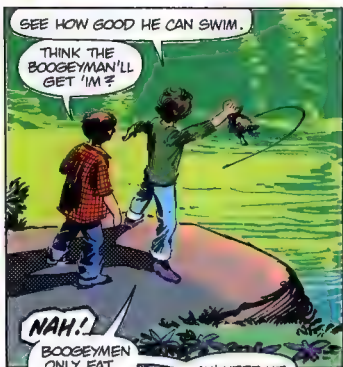
It was during the summer months, in particular, that the mothers of Ragamuffins were afraid of The River. They were afraid we'd drown in it.

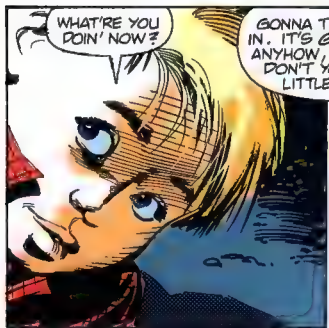
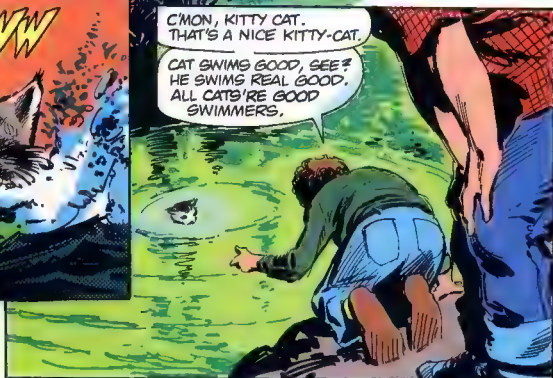
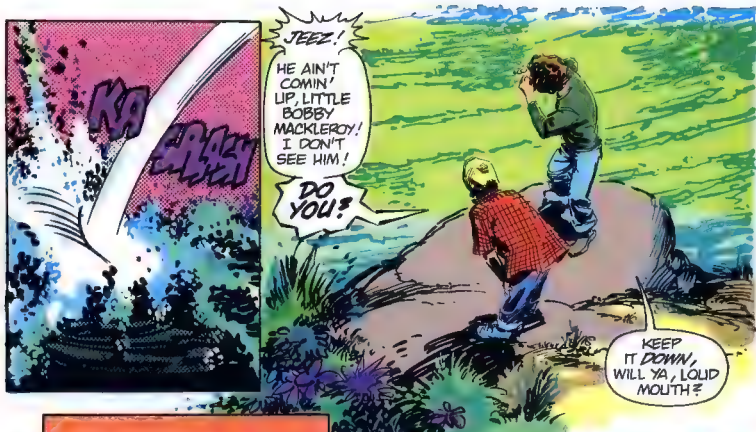
They told us the Boogeyman lived in its dark, murky depths.

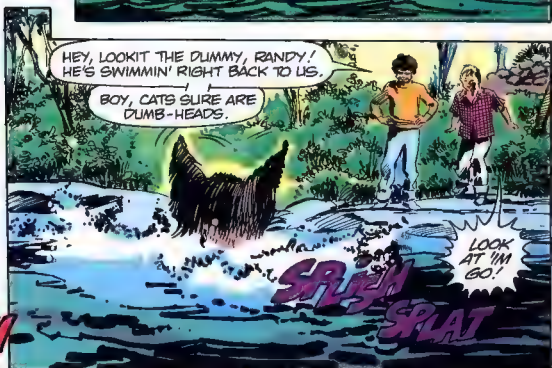
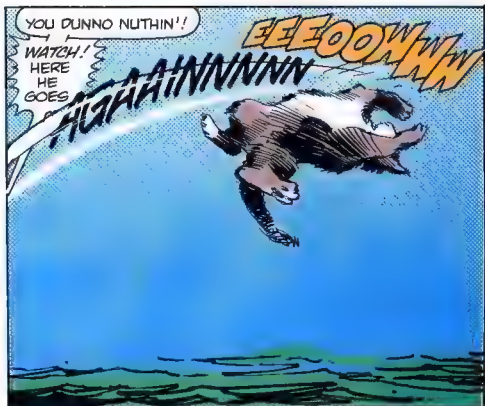
The textile mill churned foam into the obscure, sluggish current. In 1951, words like ecology and pollution were as obscure as the interior of the river where the Boogeyman lived.

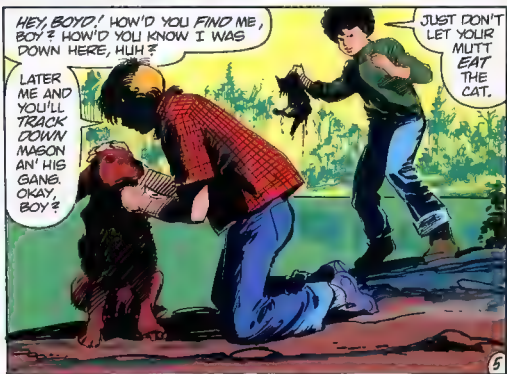
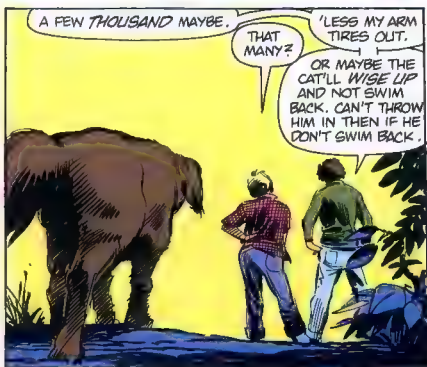
Ragamuffins often braved the ripe, shiny forest of poison ivy leaves and went down to the river edge just to look for the Boogeyman, sure He wasn't there, but afraid that He was.

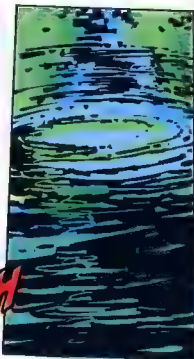
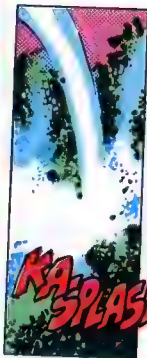








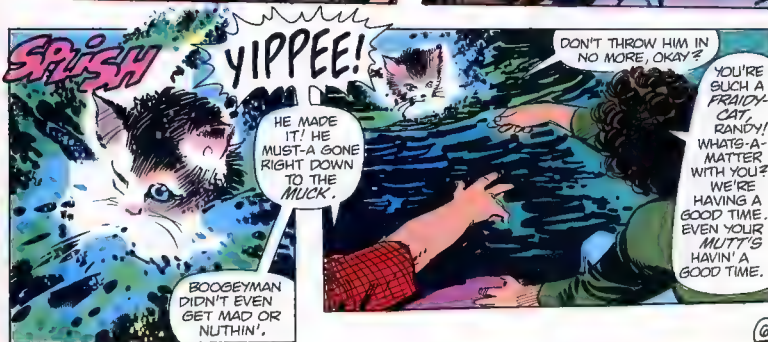




JEEZ,
LITTLE
BOBBY
MACKLE-
ROY,
YOU
DIDN'T
DROWN
HIM OR
NUTHIN',
DID YOU?



HEY! WHATTA YA
TALKIN' ABOUT?
DROWN HIM?
WHAT'D I DO,
HUH? HOLD HIS
HEAD UNDER THE
WATER OR
SOME
THING?



HE MADE
IT! HE
MUST-A GONE
RIGHT DOWN
TO THE
MUCK.

BOOGEYMAN
DIDN'T EVEN
GET MAD OR
NUTHIN'.

DON'T THROW HIM IN
NO MORE, OKAY?

YOU'RE
SUCH A
FRAYDY-
CAT,
RANDY!
WHATS-A-
MATTER
WITH YOU?
WE'RE
HAVING A
GOOD TIME.
EVEN YOUR
MUTT'S
HAVIN' A
GOOD TIME.



THIS TIME I'M GONNA
GIVE THE LITTLE SUCKER
MY EXTRA-SPECIAL-
RATTY-KAZOO-

WHOOPEEDOO-
TRIPLE-RAZAMATAZZ-
SPINNER THROW.

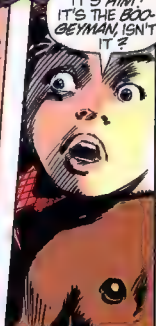


WATCH THIS ONE,
DUMB-HEAD, YOU
AIN'T NEVER
SEEN NUTHIN'
LIKE IT!



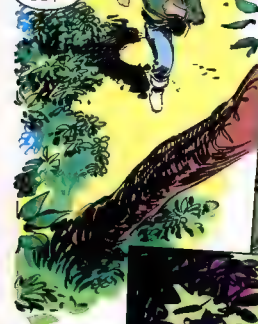
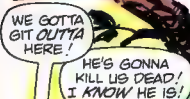
HEY

JEEZ!
I KNEW IT!
IT'S HIM!
IT'S THE BOO-
GEYMAN, ISN'T
IT?

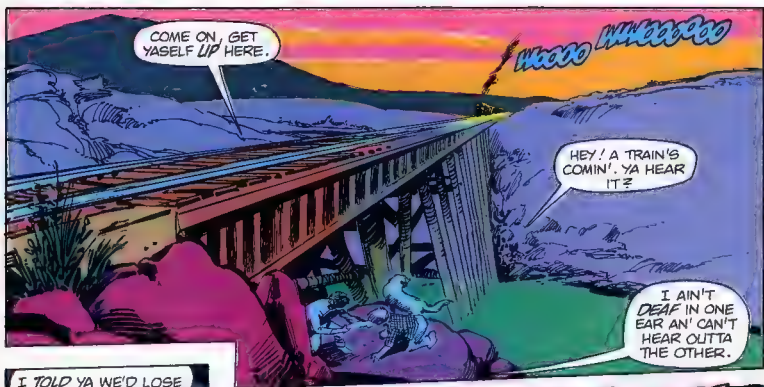


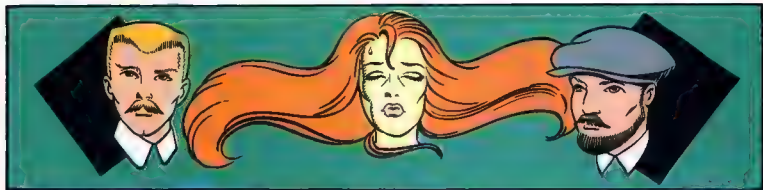
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU
KIDS THINK YOU'RE DOING
WITH THAT CAT?

YOU STOP THAT
RIGHT NOW, YOU
LITTLE TWERPS!
YOU PUT MY CAT
DOWN, YOU HEAR
ME?









SAX ROHMER'S DOPE

ADAPTED AND ILLUSTRATED by
TRINA ROBBINS

CHAPTER TEN

The Song of Sin Sin Wa



O, WOMAN OF INDIFFERENT INTELLIGENCE, SINCE WHEN HAS MURDER GONE UNPUNISHED IN THESE BRITISH DOMINIONS?

YELLOW APE! YELLOW APE! ONE MORE DOES NOT MATTER-- NOW?



THEY ARE HERE! WE ARE TRAPPED!

NO, NO. HE IS A BRAVE MAN; HE COMES ALONE.



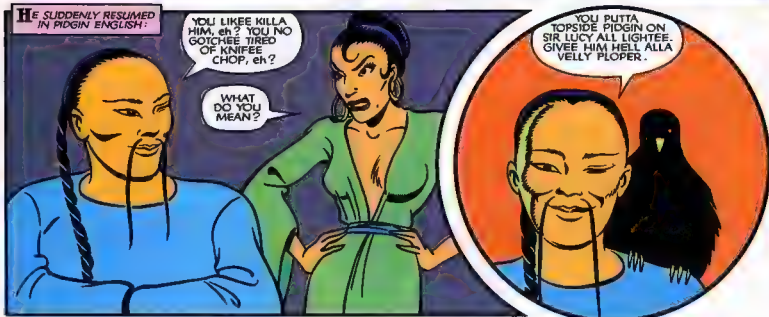


HE SUDDENLY RESUMED
IN PIDGIN ENGLISH:

YOU LIKEE KILLA
HIM, eh? YOU NO
GOTCHEE TIRED
OF KNIFE
CHOP, eh?

WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?

YOU PUTTA
TOPSIDE PIDGIN ON
SIR LUCY ALL LIGHTEE.
GIVEE HIM HELL ALLA
VELLY FLOPER.



WHO TOLD YOU
THAT? IT WAS
THE DOLL-WOMAN
WHO KILLED
HIM-- I HAVE
SAID SO.

YOU TELLA ME
SO-- HOI, HOI!
SIN SIN WA
GOTCHEE YOU
SIZED UP
ALLA TIME.



YES! I
KILLED LUCY.
I KILLED
HIM!

HE BELONGED TO ME--
UNTIL THAT PINK AND
WHITE THING TOOK HIM
AWAY. I AM GLAD I
KILLED HIM. IF I CAN-
NOT HAVE HIM NEITHER
CAN SHE.

AND UNDERSTAND,
SIN, YOU GO YOUR
WAY AND I GO MINE
NO STINKING YELLOW
RIVER FOR ME. NEW
YORK IS GOOD
ENOUGH.



HOW
DID HE
COME
HERE?

BLINGA LILLY DOGEE.

TIE HIM
UP, AND IF
YOU MUST
TALK
CHINESE.



ONLY BY INTELLIGENT SPEECH
ARE WE DISTINGUISHED FROM
THE OTHER ANIMALS



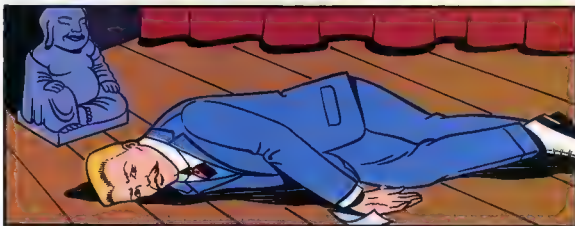


AS SIN SIN WA DISENTANGLED YARD UPON YARD OF ROPE FROM THE BUNDLE ON THE FLOOR, HE CROONED A QUEER SONG. IT WAS IN THE HO-NAN DIALECT AND INTELLIGIBLE TO HIMSELF ALONE.



Shoa, the evil woman, the woman of many strange loves
Shoa, the ghoul...
Lo, the Yellow River leaps forth...
Shoa, the betrayer of men...
Blood is on her brow.
Lo, the betrayer is betrayed. Death sits at her elbow.
See, the Yellow River bears a corpse upon its tide...
Dead men hear her secret.
Black, the vultures flock about her...
Lo, the Yellow River leaps forth.

KERRY HAD RECOVERED CONSCIOUSNESS A FEW MOMENTS BEFORE Mrs. SIN HAD COME FROM THE INNER ROOM. HE WAS CONFIDENT HE HAD DECEIVED THE JEWESS BUT THAT SIN SIN WA THOUGHT HIM TO BE STILL UNCONSCIOUS HE DID NOT BELIEVE THE SUDDEN CHANGE OF LANGUAGE ON THE PART OF THE CHINA-MAN HAD MADE KERRY REALIZE HE WAS BEING ALLOWED TO LISTEN TO A CONFESSION WHICH PLACED THE HANGMAN'S ROPE ABOUT THE NECK OF Mrs. SIN.



QUICKLY HE SHUT HIS EYES.

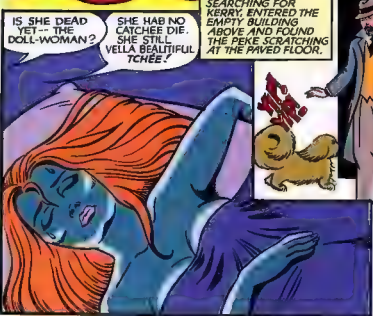
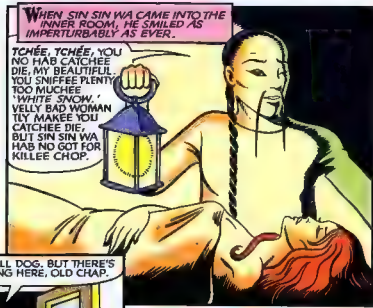
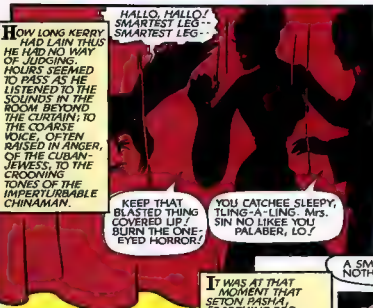
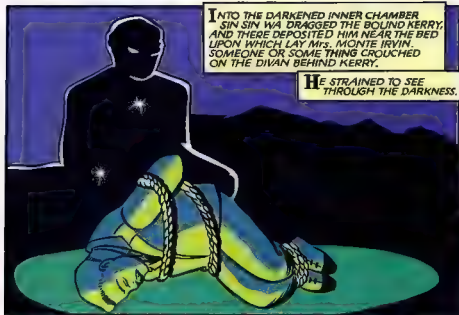
NUMBER ONE
TOPSIDE TIE UP.
SIN SIN WA WATCHEE
WITHUM GUN.



P'LICEMAN GOTCHEE CATCHEE
SLEEPEE, OR MAYBE HE
CATCHEE DIE!

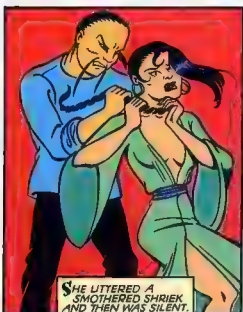
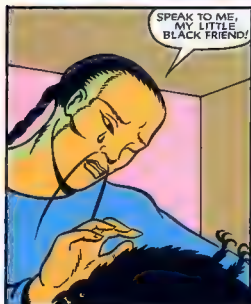
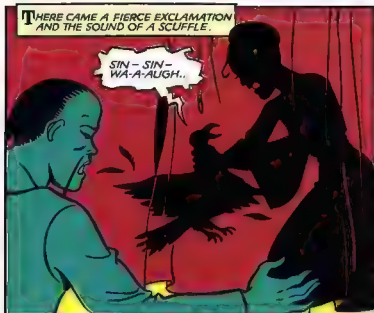


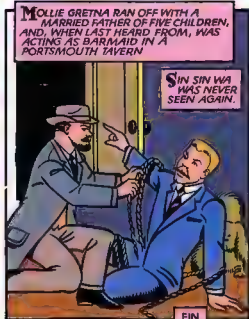
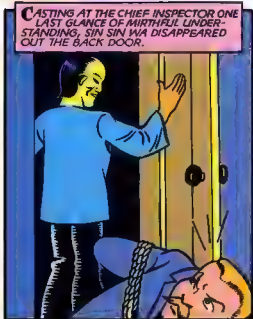
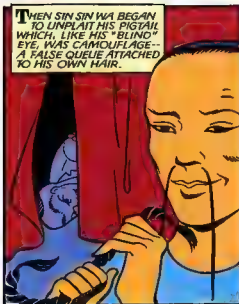
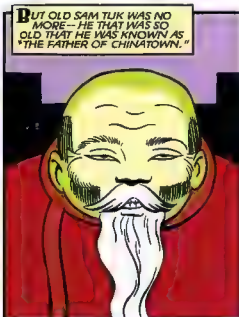
KERRY LAY LIKE A
DEAD MAN, FOR
IN THE CHINAMAN'S
VOICE WERE MENACE
AND WARNING.





THERE CAME A FIERCE EXCLAMATION
AND THE SOUND OF A SCUFFLE.





FIN

MM1005

FROM THE WRITINGS OF BARNEY McALLISTER:

The MASKED MAN

WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY B.C. BOYER

THE BIRTH

NAME'S BARNEY McALLISTER.
I'M A REPORTER. I COVER
REMARKABLE PHENOMENA.

MY FRIEND'S NAME IS DICK CARSTAIRS.
HE'S A DETECTIVE. HE'S ALSO THE MASKED
MAN. HE FIGHTS CRIME.

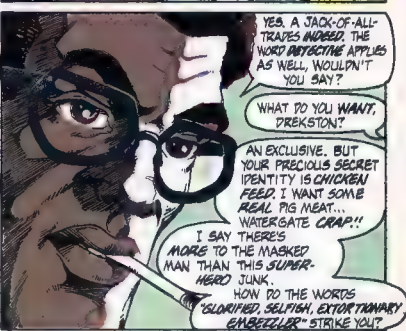
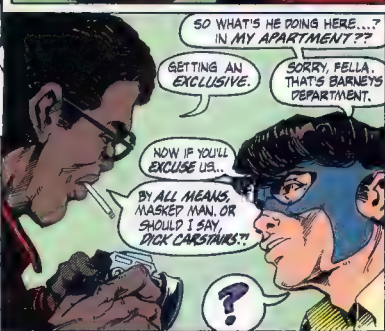
HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS AS A HEROIC ADVENTURER HAVE GAINED HIM
MUCH PUBLICITY. THERE IS NO PART OF THE CITY WHERE HE IS NOT
KNOWN. ESPECIALLY AFTER DEFEATING AN ARCHCRIMINAL HE IS
CONFRONTED BY SUCH THINGS AS TELEVISION CAMERAS,
PUBLICITY AGENTS AND JOURNALISTS.

MR. MASKED MAN?
HOW WERE YOU ABLE
TO DEFEAT JACKSON
AND HIS GANG
SINGLEHANDEDLY?

WHERE DID
YOU GET SUCH
FANTASTIC
ABILITY??

IS THE LIFE OF
A SUPERHERO AS
DANGEROUS AS
IT SEEMS?





LISTEN HERE, YOU IDIOTS.
I'M NOT OUT FOR BLOOD...
...ALL I WANT TO DO IS GO WITH
YOU ON SOME OF YOUR CAPERS. I
WANT TO SEE WHAT THE MASKED
MAN IS REALLY LIKE...TO SEE IF
ALL THE MONEY YOU RECOVER
IS REALLY RETURNED.

AND IF WE
DON'T LET
YOU?

KISS YOUR
SECRET IDENTITY
GOOD-BYE.

YOU
STINK.

THAT NIGHT DREKSTON SLEPT ON THE COUCH. YOURS TRULY USED THE BATHTUB.

HOW'S THIS,
BARN?

YOU PATROL
THE STREETS IN
THIS?

DON'T YOU HAVE SOME-
THING ELSE? LIKE A
MASKED MANMOBILE?

NO. LOWER. AH...
THAT'S IT.

NO SUCH LUCK, DREKSTON.
I'M AFRAID YOU'RE GOING TO
HAVE TO PUT UP WITH THIS
FOR AWHILE.

LOOK, DICK...OVER THERE!
ISN'T THAT GIUSEPPE??

YES! IT
IS!

HE'S SEEN
US!

QUICK! STEP
ON THE GAS!
LET'S GET HIM!

WHO IS
THIS GIUSEPPE?

HE'S THE
LEADER OF A BAND
OF GYPSIES. THE COPS
ARE LOOKING FOR HIM...
JUST "ROUTINE
QUESTIONING," THEY
SAY, BUT YOU NEVER CAN TELL.

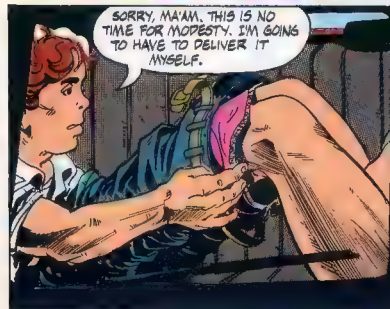
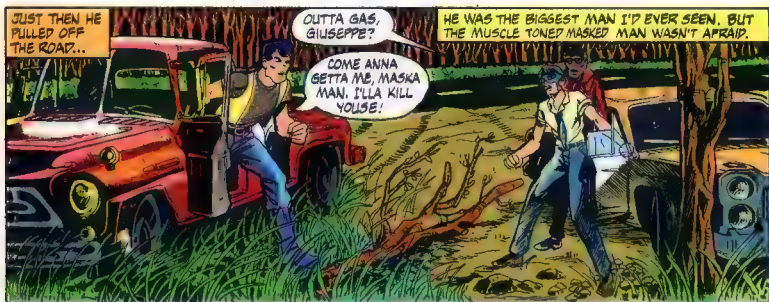
RED'S BANK

DOONUT

GIUSEPPE GAVE US A GOOD CHASE.
WITHIN MINUTES WE WERE ON
THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY.

AL'S GARAGE

4





HEY! WHA DO YA THINK YA DO?!!
SHE'S A MARRIED, BUDDY!!

THIS IS THE ONLY
WAY, GIUSEPPE. DO
YOU WANT HER
TO DO IT ON
HER OWN?!



ALRIGHTA
THEN! BUT I
TELLA YOU ONE
THING, MISTER! YOU
BETTER DELIVER ME
A BOY! YOU GOTTA
THAT! A BOY!!!

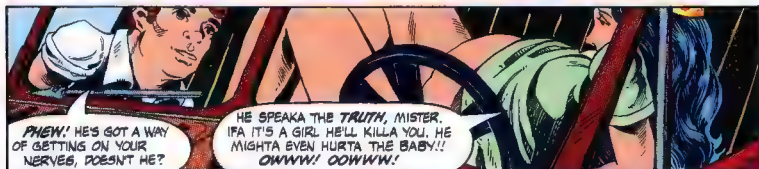
RIDICULOUS.



I'M A DA KING OF DA
GYRSIES!! I GOTTA
HAVE A SON! IF I
GETTA GIRL I'LL
BE LAUGHED AT!!!



I TELLA YOU RIGHT NOW, SHORT
GUY! IFA IT'S A GIRL I KILLA YOUSE!
YOU GOTTA THAT?! I KILLA YOUSE!



PHEN! HE'S GOT A WAY
OF GETTING ON YOUR
NERVES, DOESNT HE?

HE SPEAKS THE TRUTH, MISTER.
IFA IT'S A GIRL HE'LL KILLA YOU. HE
MIGHTA EVEN HURTA THE BABY!!
OOWWW! OOWWW!



WE'LL WORRY ABOUT HIM
LATER. HANNN! THE
CONTRACTIONS SEEM
TO BE THIRTY SECONDS
APART.

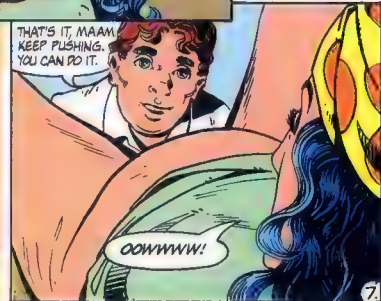
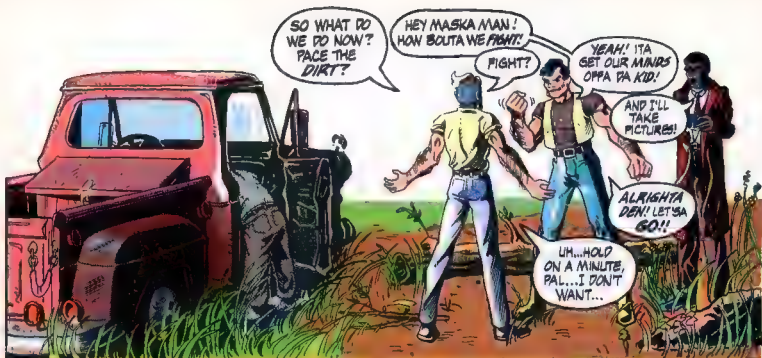
OOWWW!



GEE. I NEVER SAW
ANYTHING LIKEA DIS
BEFORE. WHAT IFA
ITA COMES OUT?

IT COULD BE ANY
MINUTE NOW.

THEN YOU'LL
LEARN SOMETHING
MEATBALL.

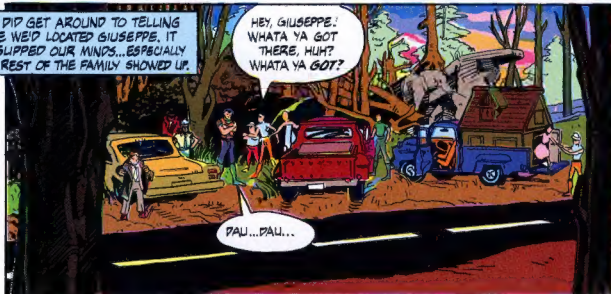








WE NEVER DID GET AROUND TO TELLING THE POLICE WE'D LOCATED GIUSEPPE. IT SORT OF SLIPPED OUR MINDS... ESPECIALLY AFTER THE REST OF THE FAMILY SHOWED UP.



continued from inside front cover

I must admit rather embarrassedly that this is my first exposure to your publications (a fact which, I am sure, will cost me much time in purgatory — and probably without cable, too), so "Dope" wasn't too easy to follow. "Rio," however, I enjoyed, particularly the art and the beautiful coloring; I am especially partial to the lovely blue tones, and the whole story showed a lot of care and thought.

And speaking of thought (which I was), "Static" will hopefully make us all think a little. It's always a pleasure to see work by Mr. Ditko, and though this installment was burdened with the necessity of an origin and a general setting-up, I am expecting some very interesting stuff from this series.

One question: what issues of ECLIPSE MAGAZINE did "The Masked Man" appear in? And is there any chance of reprinting them, a la "I Am Coyote," perhaps along with the "Ragamuffins" stories in one magazine? Supposedly, "Ragamuffins" was quite good, though as I said, I don't know this firsthand. Oh well.

David Allen
Olney Central College
5 Douglas Drive
Olney, IL 62450

Now that you've repented and are buying our comics, David, you don't have to worry about being sent to purgatory! Welcome aboard!

As you've no doubt noticed (unless you read the letter-column first!), "Ragamuffins" makes its color debut this issue. Once you've read it, let us know how you think.

To answer your question, "The Masked Man" appeared in the final two issues of the black-and-white ECLIPSE MAGAZINE, no. 7 and 8. "Ragamuffins," for you collectors, was seen in no. 3, 5 and 8. There is talk of collecting those three "Ragamuffins" stories one of these days, but it's still a little early to re-present the first two adventures of Dick Carstairs. Don't worry about not having enough "Masked Man" stories to read, though — B. C.'s already written (believe it or not) through no. 14!

Dear Dean and Catherine,

I just read the first ish of ECLIPSE MONTHLY and I wanted to write and say how great your comic is.

"Cap'n Quick," "Masked Man" and "Static" were my favorites, though "Rio" and "Dope" were good also.

I have a little suggestion on what other comics you can put in your monthly comic. How about Ms. Tree? She may have her own series already, but I still think it would be good to have her on for an issue or two.

Paul Politis
20 Cherry Lane
Kirkland, Quebec

Ms. Tree in ECLIPSE MONTHLY? Not a bad idea, Paul. In fact, it's a very good one. As you may or may not know, Ms. Tree got her start in the first issue of ECLIPSE MAGAZINE, which is where her 48-page origin story was told.

Dear Dean and Catherine,

I would like to be the first to thank Eclipse for bringing out a new western series. "Rio" by Doug Wildey (by the way, the name looks familiar. What else has Doug done?) has great potential for being a very good western series. Rio seems to be a very tough and determined man, as most people at that time had to be. Please, whatever you do, do not remove this enjoyable feature from your magazine. I had only bought two other titles from Eclipse (DNAgents and JOHN LAW) before buying this

new mag and I must say, I enjoy "Rio" more than the other features in this mag, and more than either two mags mentioned before. That is saying much because I liked both of those books a lot. "Rio" is definitely a sight for sore eyes for us western fans. Thanks again and keep up the great work.

Alfonso Limone
215 Shotwell Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10312

Gee, a neighbor of our business headquarters in Staten Island, and you haven't tried SABRE, SCORPIO ROSE, MS. TREE, or DESTROYER DUCK yet? We'll have to charge you double for riding the Staten Island Ferry from now on!

Seriously, Alfonso, I agree with you that "Rio" is a sight for sore eyes to us fans of the western genre. And if Doug Wildey's name looks familiar to you, that's because he's a very prolific guy who's had three separate careers . . . four, if you consider that his western paintings are now hung in galleries around the country! He began illustrating comics professionally in 1947 and has drawn for more companies than I have room to list, including Atlas/Marvel ("Outlaw Kid" et al. in the 1950s), Fawcett ("Hopalong Cassidy") and DC.

He also created, wrote and drew the successful "Ambler" newspaper strip, as well as working on "The Saint" and even once ghosted "Steve Canyon."

Doug's third career began in the early 1960s. He is now one of the most respected and sought-after television animation directors. He created the popular "Johnny Quest" series, and directed or served as art director on such series as "Space Angel," the 1960s "Marvel Super Heroes," and "Godzilla."

It's a great pleasure for us to be working with Doug on "Rio," which returns in ECLIPSE MONTHLY no. 5 as the cover feature.

Dear Dean,

I had initial doubts about the format change undergone by your flagship title, but no more. I really like the new dimensions. The old 8½ x 11 size made storage hard, while this new size allows me to put it into a comic bag and store it with my comics.

I wish you would up the page count to 64, though. This would allow you to add more stories. I would be willing, as I am betting other are, to pay \$2.50 for this upscaled package.

I now have some general comments. I would like to see you keep "Cap'n Quick," "The Masked Man," and "Ragamuffins" as a more or less stable core. I would like to see the rest of the space devoted to one shots, short continued stories, etc. I guess I am really asking for a combination old Eclipse/new Eclipse in comics size.

Steven Rea Thomas
South Yeater Hall, Room 317
Central Missouri State University
Warrensburg, MO 64093

While your mail is all in favor of a 48-page, \$2.00 package, it turns out that there is still resistance to such a price for one comic, even if it is all-new. So, starting next issue, ECLIPSE MONTHLY will cost only \$1.50 (the same as our other books), and contain 32 pages. Each issue will feature three stories. "The Masked Man" will be a regular, while "Rio" alternates with "Ragamuffins." The third slot will rotate to keep the variety flowing. C'est la vie.

At any rate, be sure to return next month as we present "Cap'n Quick and A Foozie," "Ragamuffins," and "The Masked Man." See you then!

JUST IMAGINE

JIM STARLIN
NEAL ADAMS
FRANK CIROCCO
& DAVE SIM



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